



# Alumni Profile

## James Kennedy

BA Hons '12 Social Justice & Peace Studies and Criminology

### Current Career

Organization: Options Bytown

Title: Housing First Practitioner

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### Career Overview

As a housing first practitioner, I conduct assessments, develop individualized support plans, support the individual in finding permanent housing, develop good working relationships with landlords, link individuals with community resources, conduct visits and teach life skills in the home, and provide case management services in conjunction with community partners.

### How has King's helped prepare you for your current work?

As cliché as it may sound, Social Justice & Peace Studies (SJPS) changed my life. The SJPS faculty sparked a passion for social justice issues that took me overseas for two experiential learning programs in Ghana and the Philippines. It also began the crusade towards addressing some of the challenges we face in our own communities involving homelessness, mental health, and addictions. After my graduate thesis, I wanted to break down many of the silos within social service agencies. SJPS laid the foundation for a lifetime of work surrounding empowerment and advocacy for some of the most marginalized in society.

### Have you volunteered with any organization or cause that seeks to promote social justice and peace?

During my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I volunteered with a variety of organizations in London. I volunteered with the Community Mental Health Programs at Mission Services of London, the London Food Bank, as a Game On! group mentor for the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation, and with newcomers and immigrants at LUSO Community services. When I moved to Ottawa, I volunteered with Jewish Family Services as an outreach volunteer, got involved with the Alliance to End Homelessness and worked as a volunteer driver for Why Can't We Feed Everyone. I also spend time volunteering with Ottawa Tool Library trying to bolster the sharing economy in my community.

### Further Degree/Certifications

MA Political Science, Conflict and Conflict Resolution

University of Waterloo

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“ Social Justice & Peace Studies offered so many different opportunities for me to find my true passions. As cliché as it may sound, SJPS changed my life. ”